




Georgia Tech Traditions


The Evolution of Georgia
Tech Spirit



“Ramblin’ Wreck from Georgia Tech”

- Words written in 1893
- Copyright not sold to Georgia Tech until 1952 for 1 dollar
- Based off of “Son of a Gambolier”
- Words written by student: Billy Walthall
- Arrangement by Mike Greenblatt and Frank Roman
- Used to sound more like a hop-step
- Before it was published, it was adopted as unofficial fight song

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- Letter from Mr. Paul Lavaille to Mike A. Greenblatt:
 - “In 1911, the writer had the pleasure of organizing Georgia Tech’s first band which was rather small in that the school was then small. At that time, I made an arrangement of the ‘Ramblin’ Wreck from Georgia Tech’ a facsimile of the original copy inclosed.”

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- Letter continued
 - “This was a hop step; which was the vogue in the 19th century, and some of my successors are distorting the idea and making a symphonic or more modern version. The Alumni Association is very anxious to keep and play the arrangement as originally composed.”

- No date on original sheet music, but first known date that it was published was in the 1908 *Blueprint* and it was called “What Causes Whitlock to Blush” and ‘helluva’ was replaced by dashed lines and words were a little bit different

WHAT CAUSES WHITLOCK TO BLUSH

(Sung only on the bleachers)

I wish I had a barrel of rum and of sugar three thousand pound,
A college bell to put it in, and a clapper to stir it round.
Like all good honest fellows, I take my whiskey clear;


I'm a rambling wreck
From Georgia Tech,
And the —— of an engineer.

Oh, if I had a daughter, sir, I'd dress her in white and gold,
And take her on the campus to cheer the brave and bold;
But if I had a son, sir, I tell you what he'd do—
He'd yell like —— for the Georgia Tech, like his daddy used to do.

I'm a —— of a, —— of a, —— of a, —— of a, —— of an engineer;
I'm a —— of a, —— of a, —— of a, —— of a, —— of an engineer;
Like all good honest fellows, I take my whiskey clear;

I'm a rambling wreck
From Georgia Tech,
And the —— of an engineer.

(Owing to the melting of the type, it has been impossible to print the parts of the above song represented by blank spaces.)

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- I'm a Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech, and a hell of an Engineer
A Helluva, Helluva, Helluva, Helluva, Helluva Engineer
Like all the jolly good fellows, I drink my whiskey clear.
I'm a Ramblin' Wreck from Georgia Tech and a hell of an Engineer
 - Oh, if I had a daughter, sir, I'd dress her in white and gold,
And put her on the campus To cheer the brave and bold.
But if I had a son, sir, I'll tell you what he'd do--
He'd yell: To Hell with Georgia!' Like his daddy used to do.
 - Oh, I wish I had a barrel of rum, and sugar three thousand pounds
A college bell to put it in, And a clapper to stir it round.
I'd drink to all the good fellows, who come from far and near.
I'm a Ramblin', Gamblin', HELL OF AN ENGINEER!




Discussion

- Do you think we should have kept original hopstep for traditions sake or should the song change for the times?
- How easy/hard would it be to start a new Tech song tradition?
- How would you even go about doing so today?



Up with the White and Gold

- Also written by Frank Roman in 1919
- Originally written to celebrate colors which were officially adopted in 1893 but chosen in 1891
- Blue was originally one of the colors, but it didn't catch on
- Why did blue not catch on?
- Worn by fans to first GT vs. UGA game in 1893

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- So then it's up with the White and Gold
Down with the Red and the Black
Georgia Tech is out for a victory
We'll drop our battle axe on Georgia's head,
CHOP!

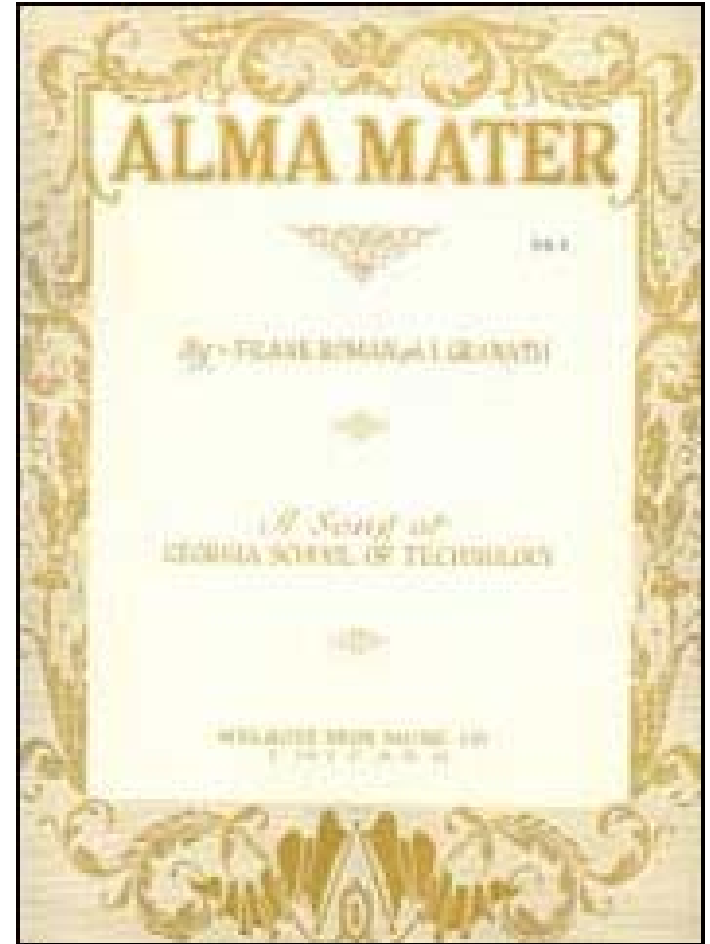
When we meet her our team will surely beat her
Down on the old farm there'll be no sound
Till our bow wows rip through the air
When the battle is over Georgia's team will be
found
With the Yellow Jackets swarming around.


Quick note on the colors....

- “Almost every college of note in the world has its colors, and the majority of the students wear them all the time while at the college, and often after leaving the active college life they take the pride in donning them. We have our colors, but we should wear them. We can have small enamel buttons made to be worn in the buttonhole of the coat lapel. This button would be made at very small expense, and each student should take pride in wearing one. Mr. E.C. Smith, of the Junior Class, has some very pretty designs, and we learn that the students of the school have placed orders with him for the school badge. The design selected is a very neat one. It is in the form of a pennant shown in the school colors with the word TECH across it. Those who have not placed an order for the badges should do so at once.” *The Yellow Jacket*, Volume 1, No. 6, October 1894

Alma Mater

- Published in 1923, originally appeared in 1915 Blueprint
- Again by Frank Roman, but words are by I. Granath
- The only difference is there is a second verse which is not really sung now



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- Oh sons of Tech arise behold
The banner as it reigns supreme
For from on high the White and Gold
Waves in its triumphant gleam,
The spirit of the cheering throng
Resounds with joy revealing
A brotherhood in praise and song
In the memory of the days gone by
Oh Scion of the Southland
In our hearts shall forever fly!
 - We cherish thoughts so dear for thee
Oh Alma Mater in our pray'r
We plead for you in victory
And then in victory we share
But when the battle seems in vain
Our spirit it never falters
We're ever one in joy and pain
And our union is a lasting bond
Oh may we be united
Till the victory of life is won



Other songs

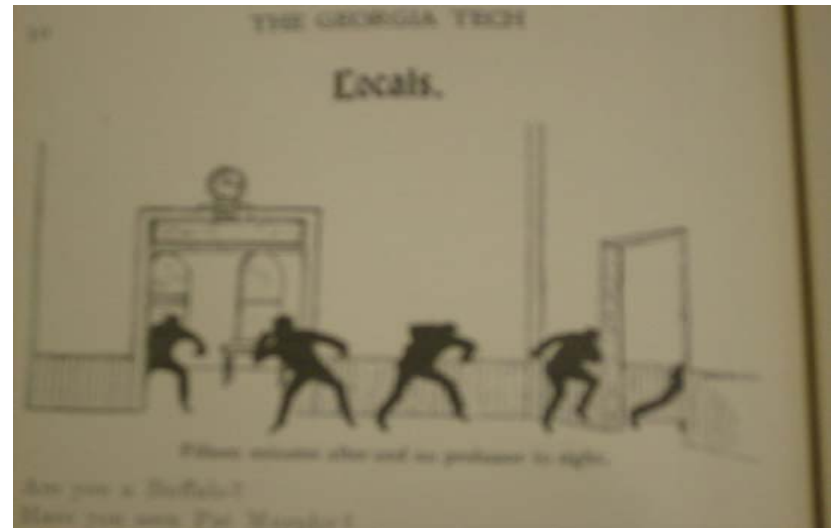
- “My Yellow Jacket Girl” , 1913, Lyrics by Harold Atteridge, Music by Jean Schwartz
- “The Georgia Tech March and Two-Step”, 1905, Francis Brownie and Winnifred Huson
- “Georgia Tech Grand March”, 1900, Charles Astin
- Also “Yellow Jacket Gal”
- Why did these songs not catch on?

Anak Society

- 1909 *Blueprint* – “It is composed of men from the Senior class of Georgia Tech who have shown themselves zealous in the development of college spirit.”
- Today: “ANAK's purpose is to honor outstanding juniors and seniors who have shown both exemplary leadership and a true love for Georgia Tech. The activities of ANAK are secret, and membership is considered the highest honor a student can achieve at Georgia Tech. ANAK was founded in 1908 and is unique to the Institute.”
- Used to not be secret, members would be tapped on the shoulder at school dances
- Claim to be involved in founding of *Technique*, *Blueprint*, and student government
- How influential do you think the Anak Society is today?

Leaving after the Professor

- Leaving 15 minutes after professor doesn't show
- Now the policy is 20 minutes after the professor leaves



Why the additional 5 minutes?

The Whistle

- Believed to have arrived at Tech in 1896.
- Meant to mimic the industrial whistles of the times. It called the students to their shop classes.
- The Whistle was first stolen in 1902 or 1903 .
- Operated today by a computerized atomic clock that releases the steam.



“The Passing of the Bell”

No more shall we hear thy sonorous voice
Resounding down the dark, well-worn hallways;
No more thy musical echoes call us
To our accustomed work. No more will thy
Music speed the passing of another day
Or ring out on the early morning breeze.
For ages thou hast bidden th’ illustrious
Dead attend the shrine of Wisdom and Learning;
But raw thy deep-throated, ponderous tone
Is deemed insufficiently urgent
For this hustling, bustling age.
So, fare thee well, faithful one; fare thee well.



-Ernest A. J. Sedeon

“The Coming of the Whistle”

With a hiss, a scream, a warl,
Self-confident and brazen-voiced,
It announces its coming
And with its advent, the coming
Of the new Learning – respecer
Of no man, and fit companion
To stern Reality and harsh
Commercialism. No more the learning
For the sweet Muse’s sake; but the
Learning measured in the counting house
And weighed by the god of Trade.



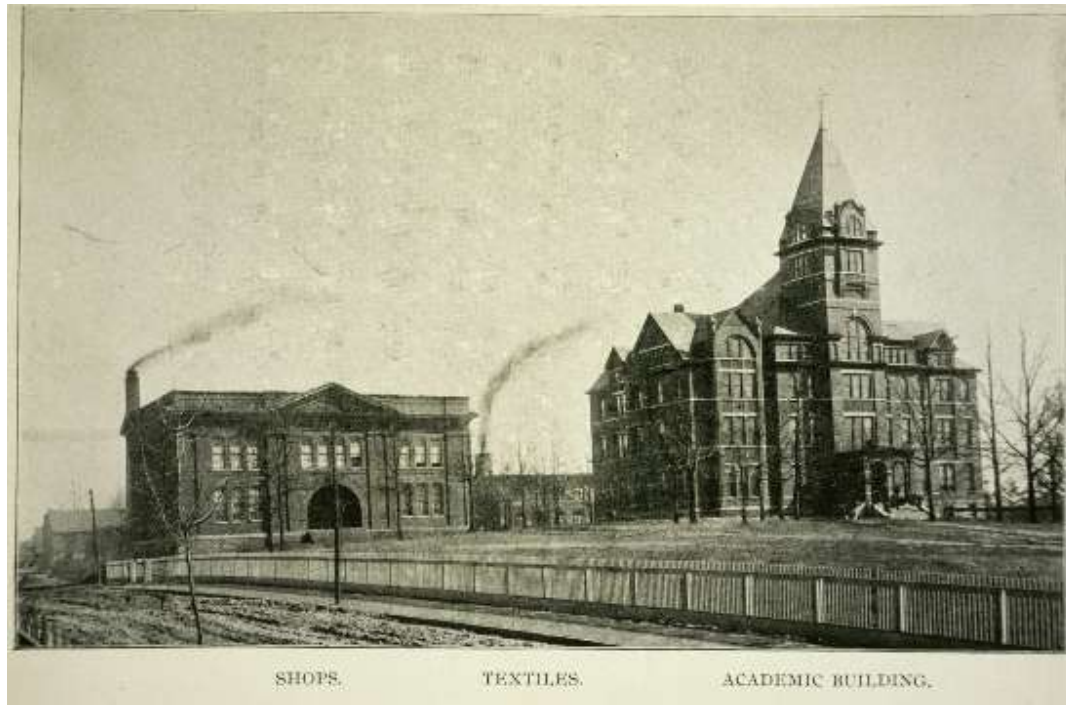
-Ernest A. J. Sedeon

Locals

- Section near the end of each issue.
- Same thing as ‘Slivers’ like we have in the *Technique* today.
- Demonstrate the similarities of how students vented about the stresses of school.
- Language and organization was a little different then the students of today
- Talked about the same problems with classes, relationships, professors, etc and shared their funny inside jokes like we do in Slivers.

Freshman Hill or The Hill

“I would that on the bright autumnal day when I climbed for the first time the hill leading up to that imposing building know as the ‘Tech’...”





Class

- Order of Class
 - Seniors
 - Juniors
 - Apprentice
 - Sub-Apprentice
- Modern Classification is derived from Latin
- Average Graduation Senior Age
 - 20 years old

Color

■ Each classification of students wore different colors

□ Seniors

- Purple and White

□ Juniors

- Purple and White

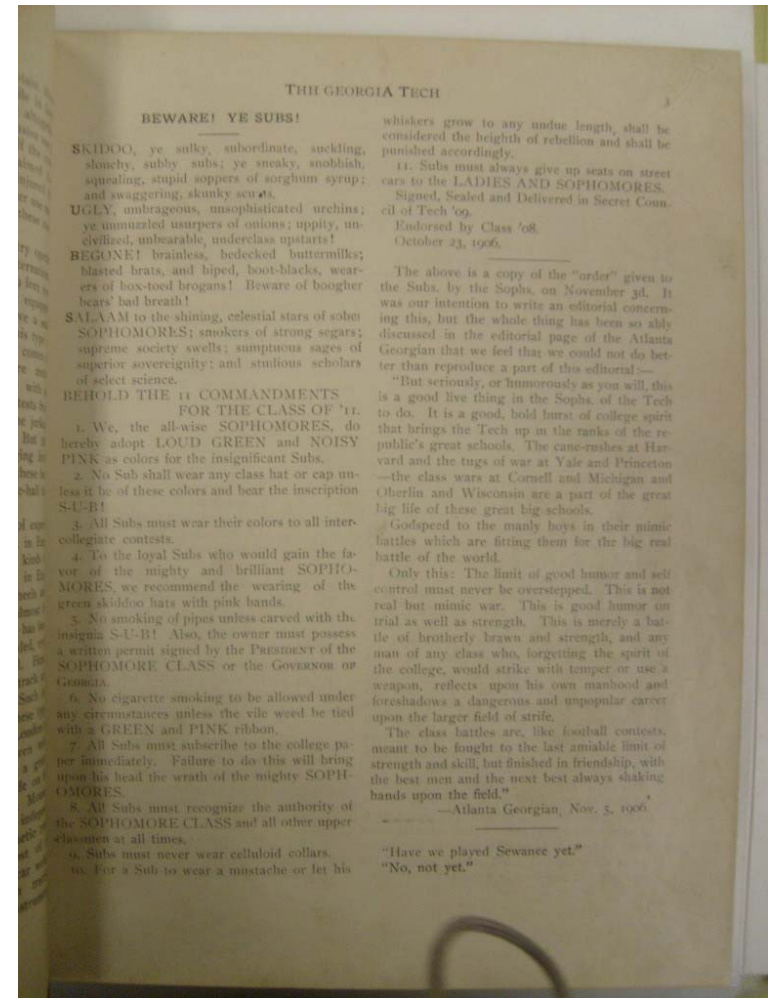
□ Apprentice

- Orange and Blue

□ Sub-Apprentice

- Green and Pink

Question: Do you think there is a reason for the different colors among classes. Is there a visible different among academic standing today?



The Georgia Tech 1906 p. 3

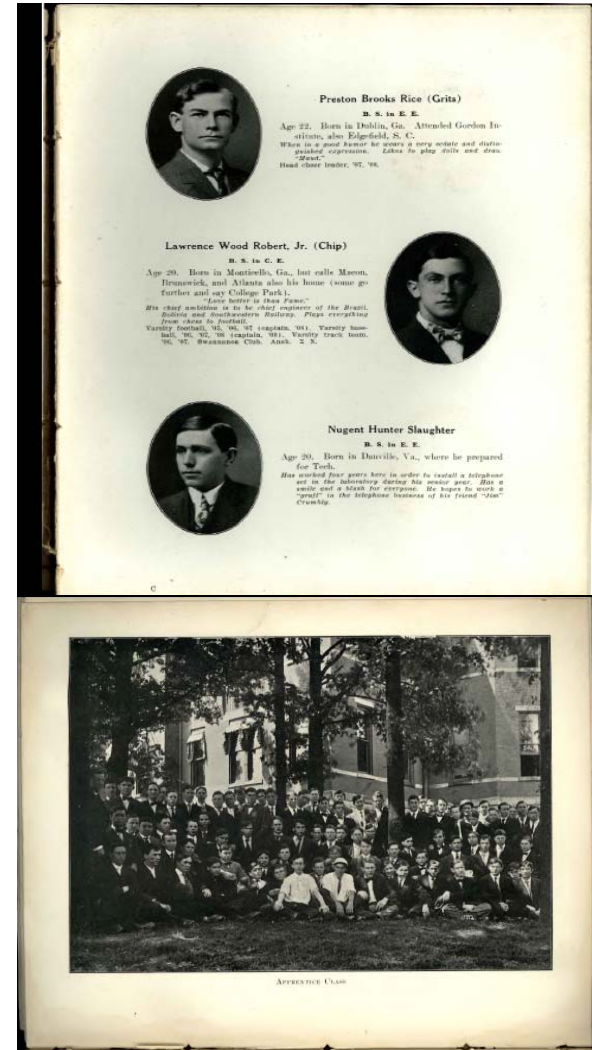
Senior Superiority Academically

- “It is custom at the Tech for the Senior Textile class under the direction of the Professor...to take a week off for the purpose of visiting some of the leading cotton mill towns in the state” (TGT 1904 p.14)



Senior Superiority Socially

- In *The Georgia Tech* it mentioned how the upper-classmen often hazed the lower-classmen
- Seniors often skipped more days of class especially around holidays without repercussion.
- All graduating Seniors received an individual picture and statement in *The Blue Print*
- “editor of *The Georgia Tech* must write words of congratulation to old students...” (TGT 1907 p. 5)



Blue Print 1908

Important Dates

- 1888 – Tech Tower opens
- 1891 – 1st Student publication *Technologist*
- 1891 – Colors chosen by class
- 1892 – First Football Game
- 1893 – Colors officially adopted
- 1893 – “Ramblin’ Wreck” written
- 1893 – First Football game against UGA
- 1894 – *The Georgia Tech*, second student publication
- 1896 – The Whistle comes to Tech
- 1902 – Whistle first stolen
- 1908 – ANAK society
- 1915 – RATS Tradition started
- 1916 – *The Georgia Tech* merged and became the *Technique*
- 1927 – George P. Burdell entered Tech
- 1945-1947 – Sideways the Dog
- 1961 – Ramblin’ Wreck purchased
- 1979 – Buzz first introduced and appeared in first football game in 1980





Sources

- 1. The Blue Print 1908 Portraits, Archives, Library and Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 2. The Georgia Tech Vol. 1 No. 1 February 1894, Archives, Library and Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 3. The Georgia Tech Vol. 4 No. 8 June 1901, Archives, Library and Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 4. The Georgia Tech Vol. 7 No. 15 June 1904, Archives, Library and Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 5. The Georgia Tech Vol. 11 No. 1 October 1907, Archives, Library and Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology
- 6. The Georgia Tech Sheet Music Archives, Archives, Library and Information Center, Georgia Institute of Technology